

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

DRC-01 H-03 M-02 A-01 /097 W  
----- 019464

R 091323Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0657

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0748

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON DIPLOMATIC AGENT POPOV

1. BECAUSE G I POPOV IS LEAVING IN SEVERAL DAYS TIME ON ANNUAL LEAVE, I PAID FAREWELL CALL ON HIM AUGUST 8.
2. POPOV WAS MAINLY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING CURRENT WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID HE WAS FULLY BRIEFED ABOUT SITUATION FROM MFA IN MOSCOW AND, LIKE OTHERS, HAD BEEN LISTENING MORE FREQUENTLY TO VOA BROADCASTS DURING LAST FEW DAYS. HE CLAIMED RECENT EVENTS WERE NOT SURPRISING TO SOVIET OFFICIALS. HE COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS GENUINE ADMIRATION FOR SOLIDITY OF 200 YEAR OLD US CONSTITUTION AND RESPECT IT IS ACCORDED BY US PUBLIC.
3. I RECOUNTED STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, SENATOR MANSFIELD AND SENATOR SCOTT ABOUT CONTINUITY OF US FOREIGN POLICY. POPOV REPLIED THAT SOVIETS WERE NOT WORRIED EXCEPT ABOUT OPINION SUCH AS THAT REPRESENTED BY SENATOR JACKSON.
4. POPOV SAID SOVIET AND LENINGRAD OFFICIALS WERE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT I HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM LENINGRAD BECAUSE IT TAKES TIME FOR RUSSIANS TO GET USED TO FOREIGNERS. THEY THOUGHT  
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I HAD AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR OF USEFUL WORK AHEAD. THEY WONDERED

WHY I SEEMED ANXIOUS TO LEAVE NOW THAT THE MAIN DIFFICULTIES, SUCH AS THOSE REGARDING LOCATION AND SETTLEMENT OF PROPERTIES, HAD BEEN SOLVED SUCCESSFULLY.

5. I EXPLAINED THAT US FOREIGN SERVICE POLICY IS NOT TO LEAVE OFFICERS BEYOND A PERIOD WHERE THEY MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE SUFFERED AN EROSION IN OBJECTIVITY. SOME OF MY EARLY ENCOUNTERS WITH LENINGRAD AND CENTRAL SOVIET OFFICIALS HAD BEEN ON THE ROUGH SIDE, AND IT WAS BETTER THAT A NEW MAN COME IN TO TAKE OVER AND BUILD UPON WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. HOWEVER, I WOULD LEAVE LENINGRAD BOTH WITH REGRET AND WITH THE CONVICTION THAT I HAD ACCOMPLISHED MY MISSION SUCCESSFULLY.

6. THE DIPLOMATIC AGENCY CLAIMED IT HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT WHO MY SUCCESSOR WAS FROM THE MFA IN MOSCOW. I REMINDED THE AGENCY THAT I HAD PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION TO THEM PRIVATELY MANY MONTHS AGO. I SUPPLIED THEM AGAIN MR NEUBERT'S NAME AND A BRIEF RESUME' OF HIS CAREER BACKGROUND.

7. POPOV INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO PAY FAREWELL CALLS ON ROMANOV, ARISTOV, KAZAKOV, AND SHIBALOV AND THAT THESE CALLS WOULD BE ARRANGED BEFORE MY DEPARTURE. HE ALSO AGREED TENTATIVELY TO SEVERAL SHORT TRIPS I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE INVOLVING EXCEPTIONS FROM SOVIET REGULATIONS FOR TRAVEL BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
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